
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director



Contact:
Forrest Bowers

Phone: (907) 465-4250
Fax: (907) 465-4944

Douglas Area Office
802 3rd Street
Douglas, Alaska 99824
Date: May 24, 2012
Time: 9:45 a.m.

CHARTER BID PACKET AVAILABLE FOR NORTHERN SOUTHEAST INSIDE WATERS SABLEFISH LONGLINE SURVEY

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) seeks two chartered commercial fishing vessels to conduct a longline survey assessing relative abundance and biological characteristics of sablefish stocks in the Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) Subdistrict in July 2012. Chartered longline vessels will be contracted for up to 14 days beginning on July 24, 2012 for a maximum bid amount of \$30,000. Details of the survey, including a work summary and minimum qualifications, follow. Survey charter bid packets are available by request in Douglas, Petersburg, and Sitka offices. Charter bid packets are due in the Douglas office by 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 6, 2012. The contract will be awarded to the two lowest bidders that meet the minimum qualifications after a five percent Alaska bidder's preference is applied.

The survey encompasses 15 longline sets each in the northern and middle portions and 14 longline sets in the southern portion of NSEI (Chatham Strait). Chartered vessels will fish one of three survey portions as assigned by the department. The survey is expected to require approximately seven days of fishing and travel time, but weather or mechanical problems could extend this time. To qualify for the quote, interested vessel owners must provide a skipper with at least five years of experience operating a commercial longline fishing vessel and competency in the operation of modern navigational equipment. In addition three crew members must be provided; two crew members must have a minimum of three years of commercial longlining experience, a third crewmember must be capable of all of these tasks, but three years minimum experience is not required. The vessel crew is responsible for offloading of the fish at the processor or tender. The department will provide bait, hooks, and longline skates used on the survey. Survey vessels will be responsible for fuel and all other fishing gear. The vessel must have a deck with a sheltered area for fish sampling and a sheltered marine head. The vessel must have an operational DGPS, 24-mile radar, color video sounder, and VHF. Additional details are provided in the charter bid packet.

Two department employees will be deployed on each chartered vessel to collect survey data. Meals and accommodations for each department employee onboard the vessel will be provided by each contract vessel for the duration of the survey. Chartered vessels must provide evidence of having successfully completed a United States Coast Guard Commercial Fisheries Vessel Safety Inspection in the 12 months preceding the start of the survey.

For further information please contact Forrest Bowers, (907) 465-1191 or Mike Vaughn, (907) 747-6688.

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